



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Everlasting Life!

Focus Verse: John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Lesson Text: John 3:1-21

Truth About God: God gave His only begotten Son so we might have everlasting life.

Truth For My Life: I will embrace the new life I have in Jesus.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, the highest governing Jewish religious authority. He was a conservative Jew who believe in strict adherence to the law of Moses. He came to Jesus at night because he didn't want his fellow Pharisees to know about this visit. When it came to comprehending spiritual truth, Nicodemus and most of his countrymen were **"in the dark."** But Jesus, the **Light of the World** (John 9:5), was about to illuminate Nicodemus's understanding.

Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus came from God by saying, *"Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him"* (John 3:2). But Jesus knew what Nicodemus really needed, and He pointed the conversation in that direction. Jesus cut straight to the heart of the matter: *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). Nicodemus responded to Jesus with a question: *"How?"* (John 3:4). Despite his extensive knowledge of the Scriptures, Nicodemus didn't grasp what Jesus was saying. The good news is that salvation does not require great intellect. The only requirement is obedient faith. **Mental acknowledgment is not enough; we must be born again.** Biblically speaking, belief is more than just mental acknowledgment that Jesus died on the cross; it includes obedience to His commands, including His command to be **"born again"** of the water and the Spirit (John 3:3, 5).

Jesus explained the new birth. The New Testament statements and examples stressing the importance of water baptism in Jesus' name, it is imperative we obey Jesus' command to be **"born of water"** if we want to enter God's kingdom. We cannot stop with water baptism. Jesus clearly stated that the **full new-birth** experience also includes Spirit baptism. When the Holy Spirit fell on the Day of Pentecost, *"there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind"* (Acts 2:2). The wind of the Spirit produced another sound—the voices of believers speaking *"with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"* (Acts 2:4).

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on the final week before His crucifixion, He told His disciples, *"Now shall the prince of this world be cast out"* (John 12:31). Satan, the serpent who had successfully deceived and destroyed the whole world (Revelation 12:9), was about to meet his end. Just as Moses had lifted up the brass serpent in the wilderness to secure the people's salvation, so Jesus soon would be lifted up on a cross. *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me,"* (John 12:32).

The cross wasn't the solution the disciples were expecting, but it was exactly what humanity needed. Jesus' words echoed Isaiah 45:22, where God said, *"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."* Only by looking unto Jesus, God *"manifest in the flesh"* (1 Timothy 3:16), can we find deliverance. Only by believing in His saving work at Calvary and obeying His command to be born again of water and Spirit can we find eternal life.

Many still refuse to acknowledge Jesus as the only source of salvation. To them the story of the cross is foolishness. Like many of Jesus' contemporaries, they scorn and reject Him. But those who have been born again of water and Spirit know that the *"preaching of the cross . . . is the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:18) and the hope of eternal life.

If you have never been born again of the water and of the Spirit, today is your opportunity. **Obey the command of Jesus.** Repent of your sins, be baptized in Jesus' name, and He will fill you with His Holy Spirit.